



Space and  
Naval Warfare  
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**United States Navy**

SPAWAR Public Affairs & Corporate Communications  
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## “SPAWAR Says Farewell to a True American Hero”

**BY: Andrea V. Houck**

SAN DIEGO – SPAWAR Command Master Chief Aviation Warfare Systems Operator (Air Warfare) Paul Perry received an enthusiastic standing ovation at his retirement ceremony Jan. 7, concluding his 25 years of military service.

At the ceremony, he was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal for outstanding meritorious service from October 2001 to January 2005.



*Headquarters Command Master Chief, AWCM Paul Perry, (right) receiving the Command Plaque from SPAWAR Commander, Rear Adm. Ken Slaght, (left) during his retirement ceremony Jan. 7.*

The ceremony was held in the command’s Dwight C. Miller Commons area where SPAWAR Commander Rear Adm. Ken Slaght gave the opening remarks and presented numerous awards to Perry. Navy Capt. Daniel Gomrick, SPAWAR Integrated Afloat C4ISR Installations Program Manager, was the guest speaker.

“It’s truly an honor for me to be able to say a few words about a man that has positively impacted so many lives and made such a lasting contribution to his country,” said Gomrick.

Perry arrived at SPAWAR in October of 2001 after serving a very successful tour as the Command Senior Chief for Patrol and Reconnaissance Wing One in Misawa, Japan.

During this tour, Perry was awarded the prestigious Japanese Volunteer Award in 2000. The Japanese government presents this award annually to an individual or group and

recognized Perry’s outstanding contribution. Perry was the only active duty service member to receive the award in 2000.

In 2002, he was assigned as the Command Master Chief of SPAWAR Headquarters.

Perry enlisted in 1979 and has served all nine enlisted ranks, from Airman Recruit to Master Chief – a tremendous achievement that only 1 percent of those whom enlist ever accomplish during their career.

In 1980, Perry reported to Helicopter Antisubmarine Squadron (Light) 33 (HSL-33) at Naval Air Station North Island, where he advanced to Petty Officer First Class. In 1985, he transferred to HSL-36 in Mayport, Fla., and he became an SH-60B instructor in 1988.

While at HSL-40 in 1990, Perry advanced to Chief Petty Officer and served as the Operations Leading Chief Petty Officer (LCPO). In 1992, he was assigned to sea duty as the LCPO/Command Chief for an Antisubmarine Warfare Operations Center in Puerto Rico. Perry received orders to Naval Aviation Schools Command in Pensacola, Fla., where he advanced to Senior Chief Petty Officer assigned as a Search and Rescue Instructor and a Basic Water Survival Instructor.

While in Pensacola, Perry earned a Bachelor's Degree from Southern Illinois University.

Throughout his Naval career, Perry earned the following awards: Navy Commendation Medal (4), Navy & Marine Corps Achievement Medal (4), several Joint, Meritorious and Unit Commendations, Navy Battle "E" Award (2), Navy Good Conduct Medal (7), Navy Expeditionary Medal, National Defense Medal (2), Air Force Expeditionary Medal, Humanitarian Service Medal, and the Military Outstanding Volunteer Medal.

"If you ask him why he's retiring," said Gomrick, "He'll tell you he's looking forward to moving to Tennessee and enjoying a slower pace of life."

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